LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of

locations in a storage area:

comparing at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location

description, wherein

the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a

type of operation; and

performing the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality

of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in the at

least one location description.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein

the at least one location description is specified by an application program.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein

the operation is replication.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

obtaining a set of entities, wherein

the first set of locations comprises a plurality of subsets of locations, and

an entity in the set of entities has permission to perform the operation on respective data

in at least one of the plurality of subsets of locations.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein

the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of

operation are designated by a requester.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising:

obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the requester manages data in the storage area.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the requester performs a management function of a set of management functions for the storage area.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the requester identifies a respective physical location in the storage area corresponding to each location described in the at least one location description.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein each location described in the at least one location description is specified by

a beginning location and

a number of contiguous locations starting at the beginning location.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the at least one location description is designated by a set of indicators, wherein

the set of indicators comprises an indicator for each respective location of the plurality of locations, and

each indicator of the set of indicators indicates whether the respective location for the indicator is described in the at least one location description.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising:

obtaining a second set of locations; and

performing a second operation on the second set of locations after the operation is performed on the given location.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of the operation are designated by the requester; and

the operation and the second operation are designated by the requester.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein

a sieve for the storage area comprises the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of operation, and

each type of operation in the sieve is performed on the given location if the sieve is specified.

42. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

means for performing the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the means for performing the following comprise:

comparing means for comparing at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location description, wherein

the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a type of operation; and

performing means for performing the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in the at least one location description.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42 wherein

the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of operation are designated by a requester.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42 further comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

46. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a module configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the module configured to perform the following comprises:

a comparing module configured to compare at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location description, wherein

the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a type of operation; and

a performing module configured to perform the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in the at least one location description.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of operation are designated by a requester.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 further comprising: an obtaining module to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

50. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium comprising: instructions configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the instructions configured to perform the following comprise: comparing instructions configured to compare at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location description, wherein the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a type of operation; and performing instructions configured to perform the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in the at least one location description.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of the operation are designated by a requester.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising: obtaining instructions to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

54. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

the computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein

the computer-readable medium is coupled to the processor.

55.-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

comparing information about the operation with the corresponding property describing the type

of operation.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42 further comprising:

comparing means for comparing information about the operation with the corresponding

property describing the type of operation.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 further comprising:

a comparing module configured to compare information about the operation with the

corresponding property describing the type of operation.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 further

comprising:

comparing instructions configured to compare information about the operation with the

corresponding property describing the type of operation.